

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 123

June 25, 1997, 1:42 pm
Page S-6304 Temp. Record

BALANCED BUDGET ACT/Indirect Medical Education Payments

SUBJECT: **Balanced Budget Act of 1997 . . . S. 947. Domenici motion to table the Domenici (for Specter) amendment No. 471.**

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 71-29

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 947, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, will make net mandatory spending reductions to achieve the savings necessary to balance the budget by 2002 and to provide the American people with tax relief. This bill is the first reconciliation bill that is required by H.Con. Res. 84, the Budget Resolution for fiscal year (FY) 1998 (see vote No. 92). The second bill will provide tax relief (see vote No. 160).

The Domenici (for Specter) amendment would strike section 5446. Section 5446 will reduce indirect graduate medical education payments under Medicare. Those payments reimburse teaching hospitals for certain costs associated with physician training. Medicare pays teaching hospitals an additional percentage of each Medicare beneficiary's hospital bill that varies based on the ratio of interns and residents it has to the number of hospital beds it has.

The amendment was offered after all debate time had expired. However, by unanimous consent some debate was permitted. After debate, Senator Domenici moved to table the amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

Those favoring the motion to table contended:

The Prospective Payment Assessment Commission has advised Congress that Medicare is paying more than its share of hospital costs for indirect medical payments, and that this amount should be reduced. This bill will accordingly reduce Medicare's share. Even after making this reduction the amount that Medicare will pay will remain generous. The Specter amendment would strike this reduction. Agreeing to this amendment would burden the Medicare program and would seriously hurt our goal of balancing the

(See other side)

YEAS (71)			NAYS (29)		NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans (48 or 87%)	Democrats (23 or 51%)		Republicans (7 or 13%)	Democrats (22 or 49%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Helms	Baucus	Bond	Akaka		
Allard	Hutchinson	Breaux	D'Amato	Biden		
Ashcroft	Hutchison	Bryan	Faircloth	Bingaman		
Bennett	Inhofe	Conrad	Jeffords	Boxer		
Brownback	Kempthorne	Dodd	Santorum	Bumpers		
Burns	Kyl	Dorgan	Specter	Byrd		
Campbell	Lott	Feingold	Thurmond	Cleland		
Chafee	Lugar	Feinstein		Daschle		
Coats	Mack	Ford		Durbin		
Cochran	McCain	Glenn		Harkin		
Collins	McConnell	Graham		Inouye		
Coverdell	Murkowski	Hollings		Johnson		
Craig	Nickles	Kerrey		Kennedy		
DeWine	Roberts	Kohl		Kerry		
Domenici	Roth	Landrieu		Levin		
Enzi	Sessions	Lautenberg		Mikulski		
Frist	Shelby	Leahy		Moynihan		
Gorton	Smith, Bob	Lieberman		Murray		
Gramm	Smith, Gordon	Moseley-Braun		Reid		
Grams	Snowe	Reed		Sarbanes		
Grassley	Stevens	Robb		Wellstone		
Gregg	Thomas	Rockefeller		Wyden		
Hagel	Thompson	Torricelli				
Hatch	Warner					

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

budget by 2002 because it would increase spending by \$5.6 billion over 5 years. We therefore urge our colleagues to join us in tabling the Specter amendment.

Those opposing the motion to table contended:

There are 1,085 teaching hospitals in 48 States. These hospitals, which are customarily located in the inner cities, provide very valuable and unique services. They serve disadvantaged communities, they provide medical training, and they provide highly specialized care, which makes them the best place to go for treatment of extraordinary medical problems. Cutting funding drastically for these hospitals as suggested by this bill will cripple their effectiveness. The Specter amendment would strike this funding cut. We urge our colleagues not to vote to table this amendment.